



US Army Corps
of Engineers®
Vicksburg District

THE

Water's Edge

Summer 2010

Water Safety Saving Lives

Danger
Shallow Water
No Diving

Culkin-Bovina Water Tank

Prepping for Sinking Unit's revetment season

JADWIN—descendants visit dredge

THE Water's Edge

Summer 2010

Contents



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**

News magazine of the
Vicksburg District
U. S. Army Corps of Engineers

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We must continue to spread the water safety message.



To teammates of the Vicksburg District...

Greetings to All,

The Vicksburg District remains busy with our routine with a full workload, and we continue to make progress with our OPLAN execution. I thank you all for your efforts. As we look around at other districts, I notice they all seem to have one or two headline-grabbing events that divert their focus and energy from their core mission. New Orleans and Mobile have been dealing with the Gulf Coast oil spill; Nashville and Memphis had the floods in the Spring; Rock Island has Des Moines, Iowa flood concerns; St Paul is getting through the Fargo Moorhead study; and Chicago has Asian Carp. Did I mention the half dozen studies New Orleans is working? Anyway, we have a full plate of work without the burden of national exposure.

This is an opportunity to focus on the routine and ensure we are up to standard. We need to execute our training plans, review our recurring contracts, and update our plans. Our rosters for emergency operations for floods, hurricanes, debris PRT, and anything else remain up to date with qualified people. It is only a matter of time before we have our own headline grabbing event that will divert our focus from our already full work load. With over \$325 million in budget execution, nobody is sitting around waiting for work.

With respect to safety at our projects, we are struggling with fatalities from drownings. The rangers and recreation managers are working hard to educate and inform the public. If

anybody has any good ideas on how to help prevent a loss of life, I welcome your suggestion. On the construction side of safety, we are doing fine but work has been slow due to the persistent high water. I ask everyone involved to remain cognizant of the hazards as we increase our work and the revetment crews begin their season. Nothing we are doing is worth someone's life. **Be safe!**

Within the division, we continue with regionalization. A few items to highlight as I see them: Regionalization is different for every functional group. Real estate PODs, engineering without borders, contracting, regional operations, etc., with each one seeking to achieve interdependence differently. Be open to new ways of executing missions, working for different people, having suspenses and priorities set by different districts, and not seeing a project to completion. We are actively participating in regionalization with our continued work by ViPER, Bayou Meto American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) execution, the Amite study for New Orleans, dredging operations, Operational Condition Assessments of the locks, and the Channel Improvement Program to name a few items. Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) identified the Mississippi River Levees as a regional project. Regional interdependence is achieved when we all focus on mission execution and success. Budgets are likely to decrease in the future and MVD will maintain a steady workforce through regional interdependence.

I was happy to see so many people with their goal cards at the town hall meeting in June. Recognizing all of our district level awardees was a privilege and wonderful time for me. Each one of you is essential to our success and that was one of the reasons for doing the goal cards. I want each of you to know your part is important to the bigger mission. Without mentioning names, we have had several national level award winners from the district. That is indicative of the talent and commitment that exists here within the Vicksburg District. I thank you all for your efforts to date and I am sure that we will finish the year strong. We still need to do what we said we would do in ARRA execution, project milestones, and budget execution. We are going to make our goal for hiring people for this year. I want to welcome the new members to the team. I recognize we continue to struggle with getting people on the computer network quickly. Teams are working to improve our processes, automation is critical but it is not flawless. I too have exchanged a laptop and blackberry within my first six months here. Please pass on your lessons learned so we can improve the system.

I ask that everyone remember our deployed teammates: Jason Mother-shed, Ed Claypool, David Tate, and Dan Carney. Thank you to everyone who deployed to support the debris mission. Your dedication is greatly appreciated.

Stay safe at work and home.

Water Safety: Saving Lives

BY JIM SPENCER AND FRANK WORLEY

Each year, almost 10 million visitors come to the lakes and river projects administered by the Vicksburg District. These projects are very diverse, ranging from serene bayous and navigable river systems in northern Louisiana, to large, wide-open flood control lakes in northern Mississippi nationally known for crappie fishing, to sparkling clear, hydropower lakes in the Ouachita Mountains of southwestern Arkansas. As different as our projects are, across the district the one thing that all have in common is the draw that makes them all so popular – WATER.

As long as we provide the water that draws people to our projects, we will also have to deal with safety issues. Visitors to our lakes frequently are confronted with unfamiliar situations or use poor personal judgement - alcohol use, failure to properly use life jackets and other safety equipment, overestimation of one's own personal swimming ability, overexertion, and improper supervision of children.

The Vicksburg District has one of the strongest and most innovative water safety programs within the entire U.S. Army Corps of Engineers recreational program. Since the inception of an organized water safety program during the 1970's, we've seen more than a 50% reduction in the recorded drowning accidents. Our park rangers and natural resource managers across the district have not only implemented every significant water safety initiative developed nationally, they have had a major role in the development of many of these actions. In addition to an already very comprehensive Water Safety Education and Outreach Program, our district initiated the mandatory life jacket wear policy at the Mississippi lakes, in response to the HQUSACE request for volunteer districts to participate in such a program.

Even with all these initiatives, unfortunately in 2010, the Vicksburg District has experienced a significant increase in water-related incidents which resulted in the deaths of visiting public.

In the 10-year period from 1999 through 2009, 58 people lost their lives in water-related incidents at our projects. These numbers have historically been cyclic in nature, ranging from a low of one death in 2006 to a high of 10 in 1999. When water-related fatalities dropped from the 10-year average of almost 6 deaths/year to two deaths in 2009, we were extremely happy to see that our enhanced efforts in water safety outreach seemed to be paying off dividends by preventing deaths. However, as seen from the eight water-related fatalities recorded at district projects through July, there frequently is no clear explanation for these

trends of up and down cycles in water-related fatalities.

WHAT ARE WE DOING?

Operations personnel, public affairs, and recreation specialists from other districts have gathered at all scenes of public fatalities for a "boots on the ground" review. These teams, along with Corps employees involved in water safety programs from across the district, division and the nation have initiated and completed specific activities aimed at improving our overall safety program and its impact on the general public.

Short term action items include new signage on boat ramps, expansion of life vest loaner program for visitors who may not have a life jacket, spreading the word about the recent events via multiple media outlets, and enhancing water depth markers at swim areas. The plans also include positive re-enforcement by providing free passes to those seen wearing a life jacket.

Long term initiatives include training visitors to create a volunteer water safety force and testing new water patrol systems, such as the use of personal watercraft to assist traditional boat patrols. We are looking at video monitoring systems with a central reporting location to try to identify problems before they happen or as they are developing in order to improve response time when incidents occur. The Vicksburg District also plans more public service announcements and a personal outreach plan to get local officials directly involved in our overall water safety program. Stricter limitation on alcohol use at our projects is also being examined.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

Help support our lakes and rivers recreation projects, park rangers, and natural resource management staff by encouraging and supporting the Water Safety message. Lead by example! As public servants, each of us has a responsibility for communicating our authorities, roles, and responsibilities to our sponsors and customers. Why not make public safety part of your delivery?

While your primary mission may lie in flood risk management, navigation, hydropower, water supply or environmental stewardship, our objective has always been to reduce the public risk and ensure public safety.

KEY POINTS TO REMEMBER:

- **Wear your life jacket**
- **Use the buddy system**
- **Know your limits**
- **Alcohol and boating do not mix**
- **Boater education is a must**
- **Swim only in designated areas**

Better Water Supply coming to Bovina

STORY AND PHOTO BY JONATHAN BOONE

In 2007, a grant from the Vicksburg District's Section 592 program was approved to reimburse the Culkin Water District for 75 percent of the construction cost for facility upgrades. Now, construction on the new Bovina elevated storage tank project is nearing completion.

The project required demolishing a weather-beaten 50,000-gallon elevated storage tank just south of Interstate 20 in Warren County and installing a 300,000-gallon elevated water storage tank. The new tank was assembled by Caldwell Tanks of Louisville, Kentucky.

This improvement should enhance water service to

the Culkin Water District's southern most reaches where population growth has been steady in the last decade. Culkin Water District is among the oldest and largest independent water districts in Mississippi, and has a customer base of 4,250 with a major commercial user being River Region Medical Center. This project will improve the water system's efficiency and will ensure clean and safe water to the people of Warren County.

The Section 592 Mississippi program supports approved infrastructure projects under cost-sharing agreements with local government sponsors. Infrastructure improvements provide enormous benefits by stimulating the economy, and contributing to our standard of living.



The new water storage tank at the Culkin-Bovina area.

Archaeology study shows evidence of prehistoric life at proposed Interpretive and Education Center

BY SHIRLEY SMITH, PHOTOS BY RODNEY PARKER

Archaeological investigations on the proposed site of the Interpretive and Education Center in Rolling Fork, Sharkey County, have revealed the remains of a prehistoric Indian village and mounds, as well as artifacts and structures relating to a historic diary. Archaeological studies show these artifacts are below the modern ground surface. These studies have been performed because it is law. "State and federal laws require that these studies are performed to minimize impact to environmental and cultural resources," stated Chris Koeppel, archaeologist with the district. According to Koeppel, this site has been on the National Register of Historic Places since the 1970's, and archaeological study has shown that it dates back to the 1300's.

The Corps has purchased the 32-acre site, located on the southern edge of town, between Highway 61 on the east and Deer Creek on the west. Two mounds set on the site, showing evidence of how the inhabitants ate, hunt, and lived there for generations. The proposed project is considered a federal undertaking, requiring compliance with various state and federal statutes and regulations related to the protection and management of cultural resources. An additional consideration was the need to gain information about the nature of the site for purposes of designing preservation measures and to assist with incorporating the setting into the planned facility.

Archaeological studies have also shown that the site has had various usages: houses, garbage pits, and a common area for religious tribal ceremonies. Just as it is a significant site for the district, Native American tribes consider it sacred and are interested in the work being done there. The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma has visited the site and spoke with Corps personnel. "The preservation of the site is so good that we have found preserved snake skin, turtle shells, and deer bones, which gives further data on livelihood, especially how they ate as a result of their hunting," stated Koeppel.

Amid the cultural resources on the site are a large barn associated with silos and farm buildings, a water tank, a pump, and a farm house. According to Koeppel the barn is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and was built by a family from Wisconsin, designed on the style of those on dairy farms in Wisconsin.

"It is hopeful that the archaeology study will be completed by fall, but ground penetrating radar will soon be used and future work depends on findings," stated Koeppel. When the study is complete there will be a review with tribes and the State Historic Preservation Officer, and, if approved, construction will begin on the proposed center which will also serve as an educational outreach for youth.



The red barn, styled after dairy farms in Wisconsin.



District archaeologist, Koeppel, right, along with other archaeologists look at an excavation unit on the site.



Rodney Parker, left, archaeologist with the Vicksburg District, and supervising archaeologist Banks Leonard with Panamerican Consultants explain a house wall trench to Col Eckstein, right.

District employees respond to disaster



Members of the district's Community Outreach Committee prepares for delivery of donations to tornado victims in Warren and Yazoo counties. Committee members pictured are left to right, Ella Huey, Albertha Ivy, Shirley Smith, Sissy Carter, and Patricia Winston.

Tornado debris removal mission final totals

BY KAVANAUGH BREAZEALE

The Vicksburg District received a mission assignment from The Federal Emergency Management Agency in May 2010 for debris clean-up in counties requesting federal assistance from tornado damage.

Now, the debris removal mission is complete, resulting in 69,087 tons of debris removal. Individual location totals are listed below.

- Attalla County—5,672 tons.
- Choctaw County—5,435 tons.
- Durant—94 tons.
- Holmes County—10,688 tons.
- Monroe County—1,303 tons.
- Yazoo County—42,971 tons.
- Yazoo City—2,924 tons.

The Vicksburg District deployed debris teams consisting of Resident Engineers and Quality Assurance Inspectors.



A picture of the tornado that devastated Yazoo City, MS.



US ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

June 1, 2010

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USACE Support for Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill

"We'll continue to do whatever is necessary to protect and restore the Gulf Coast. For example, Admiral Allen just announced that we're moving forward with a section of Governor Jindal's barrier island proposal that could help stop oil from coming ashore. It will be built in an area that is most at risk and where the work can be most quickly completed."

— President Barack Obama

On April 20, 2010, an explosion on the [British Petroleum, PLC](#), off-shore oil rig "Deepwater Horizon" killed 11 workers and injured 17 more. The rig subsequently sank. Located about 40 miles off Louisiana's coast, the well continues to discharge crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico and has eclipsed the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill as the nation's worst environmental disaster.

At present, the [U.S. Coast Guard](#) is the federal on-scene coordinator for [national response efforts](#). BP continues to try to cap the well. Alongside other federal agencies responding to this event, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers stands ready to provide technical, navigation and regulatory expertise or any other required support from within our core competencies.

Current USACE Support

On May 27, 2010, USACE's [New Orleans District](#) proffered a permit to the State of Louisiana to construct six reaches of a sand barrier to intercept oil before it enters sensitive ecosystems. The [permit](#), once signed by the state, will authorize a total of approximately 39 miles of barrier berms. These areas have been identified as locations where greater immediate benefit is likely to be achieved with minimal adverse disruption of coastal circulation patterns. USACE worked closely with Federal and State agencies in evaluating the environmental impact of the emergency permit request, and will continue to do so.

USACE's [Engineering Research and Development Center](#) has deployed 10 people to assist the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's [Natural Resource Damage Assessment](#) activities. USACE employees are participating on the Marine Mammal and Sea Turtle Workgroup, which is developing environmental impact monitoring plans; identifying baseline data; monitoring and evaluating daily reports on marine mammal/sea turtle oil spill-related incidents; and organizing field teams for wide-scale emergency response to rescue and recover animals.

Key Messages

As the nation's environmental engineer, USACE stands ready to assist responding agencies and help protect the environment and human health and safety.

We can respond rapidly with a full range of scientific and technical expertise, working together with federal agencies, private industry and non-governmental organizations.

The recovery and restoration of sensitive habitat affected by this event will represent a significant undertaking for federal agencies charged with protecting the environment.

Emergency permit procedures are in place and authority has been delegated to affected Corps districts—New Orleans, Mobile, Ala., Jacksonville, Fla.

Facts & Figures

USACE's [New Orleans](#), [Mobile](#) and [Jacksonville](#) districts have issued a number of permits under emergency procedures with more pending.

USACE employees from the [Mobile](#), [Jacksonville](#) and [New Orleans](#) districts have been deployed as liaisons to the Coast Guard Incident Command Centers in Houma, La; Mobile, Ala.; and St. Petersburg, Fla.

USACE offices along the Gulf Coast from Galveston to the Florida Keys are prepared to provide technical, navigation and regulatory expertise as requested.

For more information, visit <http://www.usace.army.mil>.

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Resource manager at Lake Ouachita receives 2010 "Take Pride in America Federal Land Manager Award"

BY SHIRLEY J. SMITH

Lake Ouachita's natural resources manager, Richard Stokes, was the recent recipient of the 2010 Take Pride in America Federal Land Manager Award.

This award is given in recognition of outstanding Corps employees who invite and support volunteers and partnerships whose purpose is to protect natural, cultural, and historic resources. In addition, these partnerships provide recreational opportunities, and

maintain recreational facilities on the nation's public lands.

Stokes developed opportunities for agencies, organizations and individuals to support environmental stewardship and enhance recreational activities. He created the Lake Ouachita Citizen Focus Committee (LOCFC). Stokes has obtained more than \$900,000 in grants and in-kind donations for the planning and construction of the Lake Ouachita Vista Trail system.

As natural resource manager since 1993, Stokes oversees the operation of

a multi-purpose flood control project including missions of flood control, recreation, environmental stewardship, water supply, safety, and hydropower.

A native of North Little Rock, Arkansas, he earned his Bachelor's Degree in recreation and parks management from Arkansas Tech University. He is the son of Ernest and Madelyn Stokes of Hot Springs, Arkansas.

He is married to the former Joanie Rendall, and they have five children and three grandchildren.

Emerging Leaders graduate

BY SHIRLEY J. SMITH
PHOTOS BY ALFRED DULANEY

Just in case you're a new employee to the Corps, or, maybe not so new, you might have heard the term "emerging leader," and wondered what/who is that?

The Mississippi Valley Division (MVD) Emerging Leader Program (ELP) allows employees to broaden their professional horizons through training, interaction with senior leaders, developmental assignments, and self-evaluation. The two-year program offers opportunities for individuals to develop their regional perspective and to gain insight on effective leadership traits, MVD leadership opportunities, and the Corps' vision and mission.

Two Emerging Leader participants, Brian Crawford and Mike Renacker, recently graduated from the program.

As a CADD manager, Brian Crawford provides systems and application support in the arena of computer-aided design for the district's Engineering and Construction Division. Currently, he is on a developmental assignment as acting strategic planner where he is responsible for developing goals and objectives and achieving alignment with the division and Corps Headquarters (HQUSACE) vision and campaign plan.

Mike Renacker is a senior project manager in programs and project man-

agement branch, and oversees the Delta Headwaters Project, Section 592 Environmental Infrastructure, the Lower Mississippi River Museum, and a variety of continuing authorities projects.

These graduates were afforded the opportunities to network with senior staff, which involved them on a higher level of participation in meetings and presentations. They were also given a larger perspective into the work of the Corps. Networking with higher level staff as well as peers at other districts has resulted in lessons learned.

Both Brian and Mike were assigned developmental assignments at HQUSACE, assumed leadership roles within the District, mentored the newer Emerging Leaders, and helped reshape the program into a more robust leadership developmental opportunity.

During the two-year tenure of the program, Brian and Mike visited other districts, including St. Louis, St. Paul, New Orleans, Memphis, HQUSACE, and the Senior Leaders Training Conference



Mike Renacker



Crawford, right, at District staff's off site meeting with Maj. Cassius McRae, acting chief of Engineering and Construction Division.

in Orlando, Florida.

"I developed a clearer understanding of how USACE Headquarters, Mississippi Valley Division and the Vicksburg District work together to accomplish our mission. Without the opportunities offered to me in the program, I never would have had this larger perspective." – Mike

"I highly recommend this program to anyone who desires to better understand how all the pieces to this grand puzzle we call the Corps fit together. The networking with senior leaders is truly eye-opening. The opportunities to sharpen your leadership abilities are numerous, and the program is getting better every single year!" – Brian

JADWIN descendants see dredge for first time



Randy Stockton discusses years of the dust pan dredge with the Jadwin family.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SHIRLEY SMITH

While doing research on ancestry of the Jadwin family, Richard Jadwin ran across an article that mentioned the Corps' Dredge JADWIN. He said that he kept reading and found the article interesting and decided to read more to find out more about this dredge.

"What peaked my interest to do ancestry research was something that I recalled my dad saying about a Jadwin family member donating \$27 million to Princeton University during the 1970s," Jadwin stated. "However, after reading about the dredge my research was centered on it," he said.

During his research Jadwin said that he traced the family lineage back to 1526 in England, learning that an ancestor, Judge William Jadwin, had sat on the Court in England with George Washington. Many years and many Jadvins later, the family came to the United States.

A native of Minneapolis, Minnesota, Richard is retired from the Air National Guard and private industry. He said that the trip afforded him another opportunity to travel, another aspira-

tion of his since retirement...travel and enjoy life.

After talking with other family members about this dredge, with some being aware of it and some not, he decided that he wanted to make a trip to see it. So, he, his wife and grandson Nathan made the trip to Baton Rouge to get a firsthand look at the Dredge JADWIN.

The man for whom the dredge is named, Lt. Gen. Edgar Jadwin, was a distant cousin of Richard Jadwin. Richard has since learned that Gen. Jadwin was a man of exceptional engineering capabilities and background.



Stockton listens as Earnest Thomas, right, and Paul McMaster, second from right, give Jadwin, left, a tour of the control room.

Continued on page 12

District hosts annual Engineer's Day ceremony

The Vicksburg District recently celebrated the 235th anniversary of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers with its annual Engineer's Day Awards Ceremony. This celebration recognizes employees and those receiving Commander's Awards and Honorary Awards.

Following the awards ceremony the district also celebrated a cake cutting in honor of Army's birthday. Col Jeffrey R. Eckstein led the cake cutting and was assisted by Willie Davis and Colby Bankston, employees with most and least tenure, respectively.

Those receiving awards at the ceremony were:

Mike Miller, Darrel Johnson, and Vince Kirtley – GWOT Awards

The Mississippi Lakes Life Jacket Team – Safety Award

Douglas J. Kamien – Chief, Planning, Programs, and Project Management Division – Commander's Award for Outstanding Achievement in Equal Employment Opportunity

Project Delivery Team from the four Corps lakes in north Mississippi – Commander's Award for Media Relations

Myra W. Dean - Commander's Award for Community Service

Regulatory Branch Team - Commander's Award for Public Service

Jimmie Kirkwood - The Wage Grade Leadership Award

Judy H. Ward - Vicksburg District Leadership Award.

William K. May - Safety, Integrity & Respect Award

Shirley H. Reed - Professional Award



AND AWARDS CEREMONY



Engineer's Day (continued)

Lawrence Young - Craftsman Award
 Betty S. James - Administrator Award
 Charles R. Allred, Jr. - Larry N. Harper, Regulator of the Year Award
 Arthur S. Hoff - Park Ranger of the Year Award
 Anthony R. Lobred - Scientist Award
 Thomas A. Tucker - The Engineer Award
 Student of the Year Awards:
 Foluke A. Houston (EEO), Timothy S. Ireland E&C), Cody Scruggs (Sardis Lake)
 Michael S. Miles - The Wage Grade Employee of the Year Award
 Jeri H. McGuffie - Woman of the Year Award
 West Bank and Vicinity (WBV) 90D Team - The Vicksburg District Team Award
 Jerry Stewart, Chief, river operations branch, Operations Division - Robert L. (Stoney) Burke Boss of the Year Award

Mississippi Valley Division Commander receives 2nd Star

Brigadier General (P) Michael J. Walsh, Commander and Division Engineer of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Mississippi Valley Division (MVD), was promoted to Major General June 2, at a ceremony in Washington, D.C. Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp, the Corps' Commanding General and Chief of Engineers, hosted the ceremony.

The Armed Services have a long-standing tradition of celebrating the promotion of its members to the next higher rank in a formal ceremony. This ceremony is a public indication of the increased responsibilities that the service member is about to assume. The ceremony demonstrates the confidence placed in him by senior officers, by Congress and by the President of the United States, in his abilities to carry out these new responsibilities. Finally, this ceremony allows the family, friends, and colleagues of the newly promoted service member the opportunity to celebrate and share in this hard-earned achievement.

Maj. Gen. Walsh arrived in Vicksburg in February 2008 to



General Michael J. Walsh

lead MVD with their management of the Corps' water resources program in the Mississippi River Valley. The boundary of the Mississippi Valley Division extends from Canada to the Gulf of Mexico, which includes portions of 12 states, and encompasses 370,000 square miles. The programs and activities overseen by MVD are conducted by district offices located in St. Paul, Minn., Rock Island, Ill., St. Louis, Mo., Memphis, Tenn., Vicksburg, Miss., and New Orleans, La.

In addition, Maj. Gen. Walsh oversees the Mississippi River and Tributaries Project, the comprehensive flood control plan for the alluvial valley. He serves as President-designee of the Mississippi River Commission.

Maj. Gen. Walsh came to Vicksburg from Baghdad, Iraq, where he was Division Engineer of the Corps' Gulf Region Division.

Maj. Gen. Walsh and his wife, Susan, have two adult sons.

JADWIN—Continued from page 9

He was Chief of Engineers at the time of the disastrous 1927 Mississippi River Flood.

Another fact that Richard learned is that his cousin for whom the JADWIN is named was the man who developed the most famous plan for controlling the mighty Mississippi River.

With a career spanning 77 years, the Dredge JADWIN continues her work for the Vicksburg District. One of only two remaining of the four dustpan dredges built in 1933, she has a 62 ft digging depth. During her early years, the JADWIN dredged as far north as Memphis, helping the Corps maintain a 9-by-300-foot commercial navigation channel. However, due to repeated repairs annually parts became increasingly difficult to obtain for the massive, outdated steam plant.

After investigating the cost of a replacement for the JADWIN, it was found that it would be too costly for a similar boat, so, the decision was made to remodel her. This decision was made in 1985 when her steam engines were converted to diesel-electric, the living quarters remodeled and the dredge refitted for less than \$10 million, about \$30 million less than the cost of a similar replacement dredge.

The JADWIN has done work up and down several rivers including the Arkansas, Missouri, Ohio, Red, and of course, the mighty Mississippi.

Richard Jadwin had little knowledge of the Corps of Engineers and none of the Dredge JADWIN. Now, after his visit to the dredge at its location in Baton Rouge, he knows much more.

"I am so glad that I decided to do this, I made this trip just to see the JADWIN, now I can tell other family members about it because I have actually seen it and have been inside."

Randy Stockton, master of the JADWIN, briefed Richard and his wife on the dredge while giving them a tour of the entire boat, and of course, a meal.



Stockton presents Richard Jadwin with a Corps mug and a brochure on the dredge.



Stockton further explains work that the JADWIN does on the Mississippi River.

District's Mat Sinking Unit readies for revetment season

STORY BY SHIRLEY SMITH, PHOTOS BY ALFRED DULANEY

How much do you know about the Corps' Mat Sinking Unit (MSU)? They employ males and females, yes. Some of them work year-round, yes. Some of them work only when the crew is working on water, or during revetment season, yes. So, how do you get a job with this one-of-a-kind, hard-working crew? Well, first you apply online for the job vacancies that are usually announced annually April 1 thru April 15. These job vacancies include clerks, cooks, deckhands, winchmen, electricians, truck drivers, etc. After you have submitted your application, you just might receive a call stating that you have been selected for a position. "First, upon arrival here you must pass the physical and drug test," stated Linda Hall, human resources specialist.

Hall, who has worked the in-processing for many years, stated "We have applicants from all over the United States, and about 90% of the applicants are reappointments. If an applicant passes the physical and drug test, the in-processing begins. This procedure includes filling out medical, financial, personal, and security forms to be submitted to the appropriate offices and the official personnel folders. The in-processing forms consist of about 15 pages for which we give assistance if needed. We have personnel from the appropriate offices available just in case an applicant needs help with some of the paperwork," stated Hall.

After the in-processing has been completed, there is a swearing-in by human resources specialists. Unlike GS personnel, this crew consists of mostly wage grade employees, and they are put in a leave-without-pay status until they leave for the revetment season. After the initial hiring there is a possibility that there are still vacancies; illness or other emergencies might cause someone to have to leave. So, if you are determined—you may follow the crew along the river because this crew also employs through bank hiring.

What is bank hiring? Bank hiring is another way to get a job with the MSU. You must do just that...stand on the banks of the river and wait for the crew to come along. Unlike the ones already hired, team members can submit an application right then...on the spot. The in-processing is the same, with veterans having preference over non-veterans. One must have proof of veteran preference by submitting a DD Form 214 verifying that he/she is a veteran.

If you have ever seen the work that this dedicated group of professionals do, you know that one has to be in good physical condition—no matter the age. According to Hall, applicants' age range from 18 to 75 years. "We have a team member who has been with the MSU for a long time, he is a very hard worker who is in great physical condition, and 75 years of age," stated Hall. For this work, physical condition overrides the age factor, for logical reasons, and the only qualifications necessary for the jobs are to be able-bodied and ready to work.

As stated earlier, many applicants return year after year—some because they love the river, some because they enjoy the work, and for most it is a job—a means of income for their family. The work entails laying concrete mats along the Mississippi River to protect the riverbank from erosion caused by channel currents.

The MSU is unique because it is the only operation in the world performing this type work. When the revetment workers leave Vicksburg, they are well prepared to do the job. Each employee has been assigned a room which will serve as home during the four months of living on the river, along with other necessary equipment to do the specified jobs. Those returning year after year are accustomed to the 10-hour shift; 12-consecutive days work period, and are prepared for this home-away-from-home atmosphere, while living on the water.

For Deborah Frison, CPAC chief, the MSU is amazing. "I had not heard of the MSU before coming to the District. I would really like for other Corps personnel offices to be aware of this unique group of employees doing such wonderful work along the Mississippi River," she stated. The work is special, and very important to the navigable waterway sometimes called The Big Muddy.



Michelle Thomas, standing right, human resources intern, assists Linda Hall, standing left, with the in-processing of applicants.



Andrew Williams, seated, District EMT, takes identification photos of applicants.



Patricia Kinnard, nurse, fills out medical paperwork of applicant.



Rusty Emrick of Resource Management Office, second from left, explains the financial paperwork to applicants.

DeGray Lake hosts 7th annual Arkansas Fire Boat School

BY RENE GUINN, DEGRAY LAKE FIELD OFFICE
PHOTOS BY RENE GUINN AND DAVID CHITWOOD



U.S. Coast Guard helicopter readies for air rescue

Fire departments from across Arkansas and Texas gathered at DeGray Lake for the 7th Annual Arkansas Fire Boat School. Teams participated in a variety of training scenarios – from a personal watercraft collision to rescue and recovery of a victim from a submerged vehicle. Training at this annual event is unlike any other offered anywhere else in the nation, and is the largest inland water rescue training offered anywhere.

The school is a partnership between the Arkansas Governor's Office, the Arkansas Forestry Commission, Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, Arkansas Fire Training Academy, Arkansas Fire Boat Committee, Air Evac, US Coast Guard, Arkansas Explorer Search and Rescue, and the Arkansas Department of Health. Attendees receive 12 credit hours from the Arkansas Fire Academy and 6 credit hours from the Arkansas Department of Health for appropriate medical personnel. Eight emergency scenarios were staged at this event. The fire boat committee makes sure that scenarios rotate each year so that crews receive well-rounded rescue training year by year.

"Fire Boat School prepares crews to respond when seconds count," said fire boat committee chairman, Bill Barnes. "It is hard for Arkansas crews to receive live emergency training – each exercise challenges boat crews with events that could actually happen. We try to provide victim scenarios, submerged vehicles, sinking boats, fire, and other water-related situations. We hope that rescue crews enjoyed the event, but most of all,

we try to assure that they gain knowledge as how to respond to water emergencies in

real life situations."

What is most noteworthy about this school and attending crews is the volunteer-based efforts behind it all. The fire boat committee and all support staff donate time as allowed by his/her agency as well as their personal time to make the event happen. Besides the gracious support of partners listed, the Jessieville Fire Department, the Lake Hamilton Fire Department, as well as emergency management offices in Montgomery, Clark, Garland and Hot Spring County and Iron Mountain Lodge and Marina, are a few key players that give tremendous behind-the-scenes support. Scene preparations displayed by attending crews are a result of much hard work and dedication, resulting in realistic scenarios that teams could really encounter.

The Arkansas fire boat committee did recognize a number of boat crews with awards, based on points earned in categories such as teamwork,

response time, safety precautions when approaching a scene, etc., for each emergency scenario. Awards were given for: Best All-Around Boat Crews, Large Boat/Defensive Boat Operations scenario, Best Water Supply to a Structural Fire scenario, Best Large Boat Response to a Boat/PWC Accident scenario, Best Response to a Vehicle in Water scenario, and Best Small Boat Response to a Multi-Victim scenario.



Foam fire suppression demonstration



Safety boats check prior to event

Continued on page 15

Lake Greeson's "Old Time" interpretive programs a hit at Water Safety Summit

BY BARBARA CORBITT
LAKE GREESON FIELD OFFICE
PHOTO COURTESY OF RANGER UPDATE

Two Lake Greeson rangers recently received the opportunity to showcase how they use traditional interpretive programs to promote water safety. The rangers made their presentation at the International Boating and Water Safety Summit recently held in Daytona Beach Florida.

One of the primary goals of long-time ranger Barbara Corbitt and summer interpretive ranger Joe Crommett is promoting safety in and around the 8,000-acre Corps lake located in Southwest Arkansas, Lake Greeson. The lake attracts about two million visitors annually.

Corbitt, who has attended several water safety summits, realized Lake Greeson's low-cost, "old time" interpretive programs did not seem to be a part of modern water safety efforts. However, she and Crommett know interpretive programs are a great way to gather people who will have a positive attitude toward listening to the Corps' water safety message.

The pair decided to apply to present at the 2010 Summit at Daytona Beach.

After they were accepted they spent several months gathering pictures and data for organizing the presentation. "After having worked for the Corps for 20 years I was thrilled to death to think we would get to share what we thought was a very good water safety program with several hundred people from across the United States," Corbitt said. "This is a prestigious event for people that are in water safety." The annual Summit is sponsored by the National Safe Boating Council and The National Water Safety Congress.

The goal is to provide attendees from the United States and several other countries with information that will help reduce or eliminate accidents and deaths related to water related activities.

During their 45 minute presentation Corbitt and Crommett used a powerpoint of their activities to demonstrate how promoting water safety can be weaved into interpretive programs. Interpretive programs cost very little and take place on Lake Greeson beaches, at amphitheaters, and in the general campground areas.

Activities on beaches include games,



Crommett, left, and Corbitt, right, attends the Water Safety Summit.

golf, shoreline seining, and sand sculpting contests. Alligator, bat, and snake shows are held at camp amphitheaters. General campground activities involve making camper ice cream, star gazing, music, and hayrides. The lake also has an active outreach program at health fairs and school functions.

The two teach the state required "Arkansas boater safety course in area communities. Corbitt stated that she was very impressed with the response to the presentation at the Summit. "After our presentation we were flooded by people who wanted more information," she said, adding since returning to Lake Greeson she has also received numerous emails asking how to start interpretive programs.

Arkansas Fire Boat School—Continued from page 14



Demonstration showing proper extinguishing procedure of a camper fire.

The Arkansas Forestry Commission has obtained 37 boats through the federal excess property program for fire departments statewide. The boats range from 16 feet to 47 feet long, and are provided to departments that may be required to respond to an accident or fire on a waterway. Arkansas is fortunate to have fire crews very dedicated to training. "We started this program seven years ago to make sure people who received the boats were safe and trained in all areas of fire boat use. It has grown into an annual event that many fire departments look forward to attending," said Robert Summerville, rural fire program coordinator.

The Arkansas fire boat committee and all partners in the event were pleased with the 2010 turnout of more than 250 firefighters and rescue crews. As the event continues to grow, so will the training capacity of Arkansas fire boat crews. It is an honor to see a "home-grown" event blossom into such a large scale successful program.

This marks the second year in a row that the fire school has been held at DeGray, and 2011 plans are to have it again at DeGray Lake.

Lake Ouachita Citizens Focus Committee receives National Beacon Award

BY AMY SHULTZ, LAKE OUACHITA

The Lake Ouachita Citizen Focus Committee (LOCFC) was recently recognized for its outstanding achievement in receiving the American Recreation Coalition Beacon Award. This prestigious award honors exceptional groups that have demonstrated a commitment to the stewardship of America's public lands and harness the power of technology to improve recreational experiences. Only a handful of groups from across the U.S. are given this honor.

The Lake Ouachita Citizen Focus Committee was established in 2001, and is comprised of 15 regional volunteers. The purpose is to assist the Corps in developing initiatives to enhance public opportunities and recreation at Lake Ouachita.

The LOCFC operates on a shoestring budget. They also do not collect dues. They utilize grants, partnerships, and technology to complete many notable accomplishments such as control of nuisance Hydrilla vegetation in the lake, National Recreation Reservation System improvements, marine sanitation laws, and trail construction.

One of LOCFC's most notable and energetic projects undertaken is the Lake



Mike Ensich, center, HQUSACE, accepts the award for the LOCFC. Pictured with Ensich are left, Cathy Ahern, vice-president member services for American Recreation Coalition, and right, Derrick Crandall, president, American Recreation Coalition.

Ouachita Vista Trail. The LOCFC and other Corps personnel have partnered with the U.S. Forest Service, five Arkansas state agencies, three Montgomery County organizations, and the Lake Ouachita Resort Owners Association to construct the Vista Trail. The trail begins near Denby Point Recreational Area and expands to Hickory Nut Mountain Vista which overlooks Lake Ouachita. It is further extended to Crystal Springs Recreational Area, resulting in the 20-mile trail.

These 20 miles have been constructed

through rugged, mountainous terrain by dedicated volunteers of the LOCFC called the "Trail Dogs" and the Student Conservation Association. The proposed trail, when completed, will meander along the southern shoreline of Lake Ouachita connecting the western end of the lake with Blakely Dam on the eastern end and will stretch over 40 miles.

The LOCFC's "Trail Dogs" have also completed an 800-foot Association of Disabled Americans accessible elevated walkway, trail heads, parking lots, benches, numerous foot bridges, and a pavilion. To technologically enhance the trail efforts, the LOCFC, in partnership with the Mountain Pine High School District's EAST lab students, have utilized geospatial information systems technology to map the trail and develop a virtual reality website.

When completed, the web visitor will be able to virtually "walk" the trail, look around, and click on wildlife to hear their calls, habitat, etc. The LOCFC has been recognized locally, regionally, and nationally for outstanding support to stewardship of public lands. Their hard work and dedication to the stewardship of our public lands has made positive differences for the benefit of Lake Ouachita visitors.

Grenada Lake celebrates 18th Annual Thunder on Water Safe Boating Festival

BY ARTHUR S. HOFF, GRENADA LAKE

Grenada Lake recently celebrated the 18th Annual Thunder on Water Safe Boating Festival. Personnel hosting the festival said that according to their memory, this is the first year that it did not rain during the festival. Park traffic counters recorded 125,604 park visitors at this year's festival as compared with 103,470 visitors in 2009.

The Grenada Daily Star dedicated a complete section of their newspaper edition to the safe boating festival. The Memphis Examiner promoted the festival on their website and also ran several articles in their newspaper. Area radio and television stations ran innumerable announcements promoting this event.

Mr. Paul Kelly developed and maintained the new website for Thunder on Water at www.thunderonwater.com.

The Grenada Lake Field Office Staff is extremely appreciative of the equipment, material, and manpower assistance provided by the Mississippi Project Office, and our other three north Mississippi



Bobber hugs youth participants at Thunder on Water.

Corps lakes.

Rangers from Enid and Arkabutla Lakes presented their puppet show at the Youth Fishing Rodeo,

and assisted with the water safety booth at both the Youth Fishing Rodeo and the arts and crafts area. The combined water safety team took advantage of this captive audience-making 7,658 direct water safety contacts during the safe boating festival. The Thunder on Water Safe Boating Festival is a combined effort of the entire Grenada community and would not be possible without this support.



Greenwood Area Office hosts Awards ceremony

PHOTOS BY TAMMY BAINE



Engineer's Day Awards ceremony was recently held at the Greenwood Area Office. Below are recipients of awards:

William Carpenter—Employee of the Year

James R. Tuberville—District's Construction Representative of the Year

David Bell—District's Hard Hat of the Year

Lamar Jenkins—Mississippi Valley Division's Construction Management Excellence Award

"Big Catch" fishing in the Mississippi River



Memorial Day weekend fishing yields a "big catch" for brothers Johnny Johnson (left) and Dan Johnson, center. The brothers and Dan's wife, Linda, are all smiles as they proudly show the 48 lb flat-head catfish that was caught on trotline in Mississippi River backwater at Lake Mary near Fort Adams, Wilkinson County.

Planning Programs Project Management Division welcomes new team members

BY JOYCE MAXWELL
PHOTOS BY ALFRED DULANEY

The Planning, Programs and Project Management Division (PPPMD) is pleased to announce the recent addition of several new team members.

Ben Robinson, a new Corps employee, is serving as a Project Manager on the Yazoo Basin Team.

Ben was born in Hattiesburg, and lived in Clinton during his early years. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia with a Bachelors Degree in landscape architecture. Ben was previously employed with Doungerakis Consulting Engineers in Alpharetta, Georgia. He and his wife, Alison, have one son, Alex. He enjoys playing the drums, cooking, music, and traveling. Ben is the son of Lanny Robinson, Office of Counsel.



Ben Robinson

Tom Rosser joins us as a rehired annuitant with more than 38 years of federal service. He earned Bachelor's and Master's degrees in civil engineering from the University of Tennessee and Mississippi State, respectively. Tom is a registered professional engineer in both Mississippi and Louisiana. He was hired at the district in 1963 in the geotechnical branch, and later transferred to Waterways Experiment Station (WES) in 1967.



Tom Rosser

He retired from WES in 1994. Afterwards, he worked as Director of the Mississippi Concrete Association, with the aftermath cleanup of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans, and served as project engineer for the Albuquerque District Border Fence Area Office in El Paso. He is currently serving as the acting senior project manager of the Yazoo Basin Team. He and his wife, Louise, live in Vicksburg. He enjoys spending time with his grandchildren and playing golf.

Rich Feibelman joins the PPPMD Team on a developmental assignment from the Engineering & Construction Division, technical support branch. Rich is serving as a project manager on the Red River Basin Louisiana/Southeast Arkansas Project Team. A native of Vicksburg, he is a 1997 graduate of Vicksburg High School, and a 2001 graduate of Mercer University with a Bachelors Degree in industrial engineering. Rich serves as



Rich Reibelman

a board member of the Vicksburg Y's Men's Club and enjoys running, golfing, and college football. He is married to the former Katie Flanagan, also of Vicksburg, and they have two daughters, Grace and Lilli Clare.

Patricia Bull, a former employee of the Engineer Research and Development Center (ERDC) Information Technology Lab, joins the project management branch as a program analyst on the Yazoo Basin Project Team. Patricia is a native of Mobile, Alabama, and moved to Vicksburg in 1992. She began working at ERDC as a contractor in 1995. She is married to John Bull, who works at ERDC. They have three children, Will Stegall, and twins Emily and Anna. They attend St. Michael Catholic Church. Patricia enjoys spending time with family and friends.



Patricia Bull

Alainna O'Bannon joins us from ERDC and is serving as a program analyst on the Delta Headwaters/592 Project Team in the project management branch. She is a member of the American Society of Military Comptrollers, Board of Directors for the Vicksburg-Warren Chamber of Commerce, Junior Auxiliary of Vicksburg, Hester Flowers Garden Club, and Gibson Memorial United Methodist Church. Her hobbies include traveling, snow skiing, golfing, swimming, scuba diving and reading. Alainna was voted one of "Vicksburg's 20 under 40" in The Vicksburg Post in 2009. Alainna is married to David O'Bannon, and they have one daughter, Laurel Avery.



Alainna O-Bannon

Mary Lynn McArthur, formerly of Operations Division, is serving as a program analyst on the Regional Planning and Environment Division South Team. Mary Lynn was born in Jackson, and moved to the Gulf Coast where she graduated from Pascagoula High School. Mary Lynn's 28 years federal service began as a summer student with the Navy in Pascagoula, and has worked for the Internal Revenue Service as well as all three Corps installations in Vicksburg with deployments to Task Force Restore Iraqi Oil/GRD and Task Force Hope. She and her husband, Don, have two children and four grandchildren. Mary Lynn enjoys spending time with her husband, children, and grandchildren.



Mary Lynn McArthur

PPPMD supports Overseas Contingency Operations

Tom Shaw, a project manager on the Mississippi River Levee Team, is scheduled for deployment soon in support of the Overseas Contingency Operations. Tom has been managing the Engineer Research and Development Center's design/construction projects including the new Environmental Laboratory office building, Internal Access Road, reroofing of the Concrete Laboratory, and the New ITL Office Building and Computer Facility. Tom holds Bachelors and Masters Degrees in mechanical engineering from Mississippi State University. He is a registered professional engineer in the state of Mississippi. He received certification in green design for Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design. Tom is a native of Lucedale and is the son of the late Dr. Tom Shaw and Laura S. Ballow of Lucedale. He and his wife, the former Becky Emerson, have two children and reside in Clinton.



Tom Shaw

Juggling work and school proves worthwhile

BY AMANDA STOKES
PHOTO BY BUCKY WALL
STUDENT, PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

When we were in school, especially junior high and high school, we probably all envisioned ourselves as members of a workforce. However, we might not have ever thought of working and going to school, at the same time.

During those years, I was almost certain that I would go to college to become a vet, until I did research and found out how much time and money it would cost. I had a bit of insight into the Corps but was not aware of much of what its team members do.

After graduation from high school I began looking for jobs, and was interested in the Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP).

I was hoping that I could find a job that I could work part-time while attending college- and the Corps was the solution! I became employed as a student aide in the District's Public Affairs Office.

Working and taking college courses can entail a lot of time, dedication and, of course, work. Taking only one college class plus working can be demanding. For the past year, that is exactly what I have been doing. There have been times when everything flowed smoothly, but there have also been times when I felt stressed.

My class schedule for the first semester



Amanda Stokes at her desk in PAO.

included seven online classes which afforded me the opportunity to work more hours.

During that first semester, I had to drop a class, but it had nothing to do with the juggle. I found that I did not effectively "teach the material" to myself. (If you are planning to take an online class, make sure it's something you either pick up on easily or something with which you are familiar).

Then, the second semester held more than I expected- I took three classes in the classroom, two of which were night classes, as well as 4 online classes.

During the second semester, I would babysit about twice a week, work here at the district, and attend classes. This proved to be too much and I ended up dropping the babysitting for the time being.

All of Public Affairs personnel were so great about juggling my work schedule around my school work. Being that I was taking some online classes, I had to take some tests at a proctored site which was about 40 minutes away. Sometimes I had to schedule my tests during work hours because that was all that was available. Luckily, I have a boss and co-workers who understand when I have to take time off from work for school.

Although the days get long because of juggling work and school, the job and scholarships have enabled me to pay for college expenses, which exclude having to get a loan, something my parents and I proudly tell people.

Attending college has enhanced my academic knowledge, while working for the Corps has enhanced my knowledge about its mission and the varied professions they hire. Now, I have gained much insight about what the Corps does, and have attended several boat trips, meetings, ceremonies and programs.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work for the district, to have great and cooperative co-workers, and to be afforded the chance of furthering my education while doing so. The Student Temporary Employment Program (STEP) is a worthwhile program and has proven to be beneficial for me....and my parents.

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DeGray Lake	(870) 246-5501
Sardis Lake	(662) 563-4531
Arkabutla Lake	(662) 562-6261
Enid Lake	(662) 563-4571
Grenada Lake	(662) 226-5911
Bayou Bodcau	(318) 322-6391
JBW Waterway	(318) 322-6391
Ouachita-Black Rivers	(318) 322-6391
Golden Age Passports	(601) 631-5287
Aerial Photography	(601) 631-5709
Corps Wetland Permits	(601) 631-5289
Apply, ask questions, or report violations	
Contracting & Bids	(601) 631-7706
Vendors, status of bids, specs	
Community Support	(601) 631-5223
Tours, speakers, volunteers	
Historical Questions & Research	(601) 634-7023
Mississippi River History Center	
Real Estate Issues	(601) 631-5220
Corps impacts to your property	
Employment Questions	(601) 631-5859
Vacancies, status, qualifications	
Historical Photographs	(601) 631-5021
Environmental	(601) 631-5410

Other Vicksburg Engineer/ Federal Organizations:

Mississippi Valley Division
(601) 634-5760

Engineer Research & Development
Center
(601) 634-2504

412th Engineer Command
(601) 636-1686

168th Engineer Group
(601) 313-5290

Vicksburg National Military Park
(601) 636-0583

U. S. Coast Guard Cutter Kickapoo
(601) 636-8304

U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service
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